

COMMUNIQUE'

The California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection



The Pechanga Fire raged beyond, but never threatened, the community of Redhawk near Temecula in Riverside County. Photo by Jody Hagemann, Emergency Services Coordinator, Riverside County Fire Department.



"FIRES IN THE WEST"
The headline is getting tiring - especially for the thousands of firefighters who have been on the firelines for weeks. While it has been the other Western States that have been hit especially hard, California has had its share of wildfires. And now, as we roll into the heart of fire season, we can only hope that Mother Nature and human nature will cooperate to keep this CDF Fire Season out of the record books.

Through August 13, 2000 CDF's numbers looked like this:

<u>Year</u>	<u>Fires</u>	<u>Acres</u>
2000	3,876	37,634
1999	4,300	32,427
5YR Avg.	4,187	56,647

The Pechanga Fire in Riverside County scorched 11,734 acres and burned four CDF firefighters before it was contained. CDF Chief Deputy Director Woody Allshouse took these shots of crews burning out an area to stop the fire's spread.



SUMMER 2000

From the Director

The changing face of CDF

Throughout the United States, businesses and governments are beginning to feel the impacts of baby-boomer retirements. CDF is no exception. Nationwide, retirement incentives have been steadily increasing. The use of new deferred compensation plans and investment strategies, like the stock market, are paying off, putting some baby-boomers in the position of being able to retire earlier than their predecessors. Staying in state service until they "max out" (reach a salary level that will give them the most retirement pay) may no longer be their goal. They may elect to retire when eligible.

Other factors are also involved in the increasing number of retirements facing CDF. The department hired a significant number of new employees following enactment of the Forest Practice Act in the mid-70s that are now becoming eligible for retirement. This increasing rate of retirement will create a substantial challenge for CDF to continue to meet its workforce requirements with the high caliber of staff we have come to count on.

This problem has been developing for some time. When the Fair Labor Standard's Act (FLSA) resulted in increased pay for CDF rank and file employees, including increased salaries and mandatory overtime pay, supervisory and managerial employees were not included. As a result, many supervisory and managerial employees ended up being paid less than the rank and file employees they supervised. Adding insult to injury, these same supervisory and managerial employees were confronting ever increasing workloads and complexity in their jobs. Needless to say, many employees were justifiably frustrated by this situation. Meanwhile, in many local government fire departments salaries for supervisory and managerial employees became significantly higher, but with less responsibility and workload. It shouldn't come as a surprise that several of CDF's supervisory and managerial employees left CDF to work for local government fire departments or, in some cases, private industry. The impacts were not felt by supervisors and

managers alone. Rank and file employees given promotional opportunities realized that they would be working longer hours with greater complexity and challenges for less pay than they were getting in their current jobs.

Employees accepting promotions that required moving to a new location had to contend with additional challenges. The family structure has changed over the years, with two-income families becoming the rule rather than the exception. And, rising interest rates and a recession in some areas made it difficult to sell homes. This meant that a move could result in an employee getting a lower salary, loss of spousal income for a period of time, and higher interest rates for their house payments (if they were fortunate enough to be able to sell the house they were already in).

Within the past year, employees eligible for, or getting close to, retirement have seen a retirement package enhancement of payment at 90 percent, pay increases commensurate with rank and file workers, and a partial resolution of the chief officer compaction issue stemming from the exclusion of certain employees from FLSA provisions. Many employees that were eligible for retirement

suddenly found themselves "maxed out" on their contributions and receiving a salary windfall greater than they had ever envisioned. Other employees eligible for retirement, who have not "maxed out" on their contributions have found that they can retire today at a higher salary level than they planned for when they did "max out", so why not retire a little earlier? Still others are speculating that the next salary increase may not be as generous as those in 1999 and 2000, so they might as well retire at their highest salary level in 2000.

Just as there is no single reason why CDF is facing a significant number of retirements, there is also no one solution. We are currently looking at a number of solutions and opportunities. The time has come for the



"While we will say goodbye and best wishes to many longtime members of the CDF family, I have complete confidence in all of you who will step in to fill the void they leave. "

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department to evaluate its current positions and classifications to determine what is needed for the future. Many of CDF's positions have stayed the same for 30 years, yet the duties have changed tremendously. One of our most important goals is to work to retain the outstanding employees that CDF has invested countless time and dollars in. And of

course, recruiting to fill the anticipated vacancies in managerial and supervisorial positions is also critical. The employees filling these slots may not have had the chance to gain the time and experience that employees of the past had. Therefore, it is very important that CDF compensate for missing on-the-job training with formal training and specific training plans.

It will be a challenge, but that is

nothing new for this department. CDF employees at all levels have always met their responsibilities at the highest level. And while we will say goodbye and best wishes to many longtime members of the CDF family, I have complete confidence in all of you who will step in to fill the void they leave.

Andrea E. Tuttle

CDF has gone "BLUE"

A new millennium has brought a new look for CDF. The green and khaki has been replaced by navy blue. Why? Safety!

A UC Davis study showed that the material used in the green pants worn by CDF firefighters could contribute to burn injuries. The polyester in the pants can actually melt into skin if exposed to flame. The study recommended a change in the pants our folks were wearing.

The National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) standard for wildland fire fighting pants is 100 percent cotton. While cotton will burn, it has proven to lessen burn severity; and by wearing the cotton pants under fire fighting gear (Nomex), it meets the safety standard of double layering. So why not purchase the green pants in 100 percent cotton? "We found that there were no manufacturers making green pants in 100% cotton, and none that were interested in getting into making them," said Jim Wright, Assistant Deputy Director for Fire Protection. "In addition, if we could have found a manufacturer willing to produce the pants, the costs to CDFers would have been prohibitive because of the limited market."

CDF began looking at what was available in 100 percent cotton, and that was navy blue. That's not to say that there have been no glitches with

going blue. The NFPA spends 4 to 6 months testing protective clothing from different manufacturers before giving a seal of approval. And what the NFPA found for wildland fire fighting clothing is that not all 100 percent cotton navy blue pants meet their standards. CDF personnel have been advised of the brand of pants that are approved for purchase. The department is evaluating additional manufacturers and hopes to include other options in the future. In the meantime, ***do not purchase pants made by any other manufacturers!***

While the safety issue affected only the response uniform pants, the rest of the uniform had to go navy as well. The response uniform worn by CDFers on a daily basis consists of the navy blue pants and a navy blue shirt. The shirt is not 100 percent cotton because it is meant to be taken off before Nomex is put on. And, because all CDF response personnel are already wearing 100 percent cotton t-shirts under their uniform shirts, they are now covered in 100 percent cotton under their Nomex.

The administrative uniform is a new option. It is semi-formal provid-



L to R: Retired Heavy Fire Equipment Operator Nip Rasmussen, Fire Apparatus Engineer Kris Timberlake, and Fire Prevention Specialist II Harry Martin show off the CDF uniform - past and present. They were all on hand to celebrate the 50th Anniversary of CDF's Healdsburg Fire Station. Photo by Robert Foley.

ing an option to the work/response uniform when attending training classes or public events. Personnel can wear their work pants or purchase optional pants that are not 100 percent cotton and are a little dressier. The pants are to be worn with a more professional long-sleeve white shirt and a tie.

The dress uniform, includes the dress pant, long sleeve shirt, jacket

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and hat and is for formal occasions such as funerals and ceremonies.

Response personnel and all supervisors and managers were in the new uniform by July 15. Non-response uniform personnel will transition into the navy blue between now and June 30, 2001. The dress uniform is required for all supervisors and managers by January 1, 2001. All other personnel required to have a dress uniform have until June 30, 2001 to make the change.

"Of course this means we will be seeing a mix of green uniforms and blue uniforms for a while," said Jim. "But by the end of next June, CDF will have gone completely blue."

"The patch will not change," said Jim. There has been a lot of speculation about a new patch, but the one we have looks great with the new uniform. One other change to the uniform is a transition to a gold shield badge from the traditional star badge for our Chief Officers. "The design has been developed and approved, now comes the purchasing and issuance processes," said Jim. "Those details are currently being worked out."

"There have been a lot of little details, and problems, to work out," said Jim. "I'm aware of the supply and demand issues many of you have encountered, and I can guarantee that those will be improving. I want you all to feel free to drop me an e-mail or give me a call about any problems you encounter with the new uniforms. It is important that I be able to monitor what is happening in this first year."

Jim summed up the whole issue in two sentences: "The fact is that we are now in blue. And it all boils down to this; CDFers do a great job, no matter what color they are wearing."

Please be sure to check the CDF Intranet for the latest memos and policy concerning the new uniforms.

Deputy Director, Fire Protection

Glen Newman

A nearly 40-year CDF career has led Glen Newman to the position of Deputy Director for Fire Protection. Having already experienced the challenges of working in both the southern and northern CDF regions, Glen is enjoying the new challenges as part of the Sacramento team. "I'm honored to be here as we position this department for the future and in implementing the visions of our Director and Chief Deputy," said Glen.

Even for a department that is always ready to respond, regardless of the emergency, there will be many challenges in the coming years. "Now is the time to look at where we need to be in terms of equipment, aircraft, training, technology, and most importantly, the people who make up the CDF workforce," said Glen. "Our programs have started to look at what we will need over the next 20 years. We will use that information to decide on a master plan for the future of CDF, and to support our budget needs to get there."

"If you don't know where you are going, any road will get you there," a quote cited by previous CDF Director Richard Wilson, and one that Glen says sums up our need for planning right now.

Some issues are clear already. With estimates showing that an additional 18 million people will reside in California over the next 20 years, CDF has much to prepare for. "CDF's role in local government will become even more important as the population grows," says Glen. "We need to increase our involvement in land-use planning to ensure that fire-safe measures are built into all new communities." In addition, "we must continue to tap the tremendous depth of resources of our Schedule A contracts," said Glen.

"There are issues that we are

working on right now such as making sure there is air conditioning in 'all' new emergency response equipment, getting our firecrew carrying vehicles designated as code three so



they can get where they are needed faster, and we are looking into using alternative fuel vehicles for administrative staff."

Speaking of current issues, when asked about switching to blue uniforms, Glen reminds that change is nothing new for CDF. He even reminisces about the tan uniform he wore when he joined CDF in Riverside many years ago.

Glen's CDF career began in 1961 when he was hired as a seasonal firefighter. He then took some time out for a military career, but returned to CDF, and by 1979, was a state forest ranger II and the administrative officer for what was then the Region VI Headquarters in Riverside. Glen then promoted to Region VI Camp Program Deputy Chief, held the position of deputy chief in the Riverside Unit, and in 1986 was appointed San Bernardino

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Unit Chief/County Fire Warden. Less than three years later, he moved on to take the Riverside Unit Chief position and head of the Riverside County Fire Department. At that time, the integrated state and county department included 79 stations, 549 permanent personnel, 125 seasonals, and 800 volunteer firefighters, with a combined budget of \$36 million.

In January 1992, Glen became Assistant Region Chief in Southern California. He worked with then Region Chief Rex Griggs to manage the tremendous CDF fire protection responsibility in 11 Southern California counties. Later that year, Glen was appointed to the South Area Chief position.

Glen led the South Area until July 1996 when he headed north to fill the Coast-Cascade Region Chief position. With responsibility for 13.5 million acres of state responsibility area, a \$117.4 million budget, 2,500 permanent and seasonal personnel, and a busy, sometimes controversial, Forest Practice Program, there was no time for a breather as he moved into the Santa Rosa headquarters facility.

Glen says Sacramento is a different world from the field, but he's taking it in stride. "I like challenges," said Glen. With responsibility for overseeing CDF's statewide emergency response role, and emphasizing the importance of that role to the Resources Agency, the Department of Finance, and the Legislature, Glen's extensive CDF experience is serving him well. He adds that his job in Sacramento is made easier by "the consistently outstanding work of all CDF personnel statewide."

As the Fire Protection Deputy Director, Glen looks to a "total force concept" to take care of business. "We all need to find ways to work together to support our folks out there who are responding to emergencies every day," said Glen. "Every CDF employee plays a role in our

emergency response mission."

The fact that so many CDFers will be retiring is a concern, but one that we can overcome, according to Glen. "Our employees are our most important asset, and we have many brilliant young men and women out there that will be able to step in and fill the voids left by our retiring personnel." Glen emphasizes that they must be provided the training they need to fill leadership roles, and he also looks to those seasoned CDF leaders to mentor "up-and-coming" staff. That mentoring is never more important than now, as fire season begins, and CDF personnel look to their fire captains and battalion

chiefs to get them through it safely.

Glen's pride and caring for this department and its people is evident. That, along with a reputation for "getting things done", is what Glen hopes to leave as his CDF legacy, but for now there's a fire season to get through.

"Once again California faces a potentially busy and destructive fire season. But our professional and dedicated people will handle whatever is thrown at them, like they always do," said Glen. "Use your training and your common sense when you're out there. I want a safe fire season for all of you."

Deputy Director, Public Affairs, Public Education, and Legislation

Louis Blumberg

Louis Blumberg joined the CDF team as Deputy Director for Public Affairs, Public Education, and Legislation (PAPEL) in October 1999.

Appointed by Governor Davis, Louis came to the department from The Wilderness Society where he held the position of senior policy analyst and assistant regional director. In his ten years at the Society, Louis was involved in land management planning and policy issues that focused on the national forests and other public lands in California.

"This position is a good fit for me with my background in legislation, policy, and communication, focused on both forestry and fire issues," said Louis. In eight months, he has formed a high opinion of the department. "I've found CDF to be a remarkable organization in its versatility, professionalism, and spirit. There is no other department so clearly committed to its mission;



even with the wide breadth of issues that the people of CDF face, the focus and dedication are impressive."

"The core role of all three units in my program is to coordinate and facilitate the department's communications with the public, media, and Legislature," said Louis. However, he has found that these programs face a number of challenges all rooted in one significant issue - too little staff.

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"PAPEL as a whole is too small; there's no backup for staff that has continually growing responsibilities," said Louis.

Public Affairs is faced with meeting all of the department's information needs, especially on the Internet. "The potential use of the Internet to promote CDF, educate the public, and do business is unlimited," said Louis. "Yet, it is not a simple process. We are developing an understanding of what types of information and business processes we would like to see on the web, but issues of staffing and technology, quality control and accuracy, and security and privacy, must be considered at every step." He added, "the challenge also includes a department-wide learning curve in dealing with and adapting to this new way of communication."

Being a very small unit, the effects of being active on the Internet have put tremendous pressures on staff to complete other tasks such as publishing the *Communique*, producing new and updated information materials that are now for both handout and Internet use, and implementing media and education events.

Public Education has created a unique opportunity to expand CDF's outreach through the Fire Safe Councils and their capability of spreading our fire safe message." Maintaining and expanding the council program, as well as continuing to guide the department's education program is also being done with a very small staff. Meanwhile the unit is working to provide support to the field with education, VIP coordination, and assistance to the fire safe councils. Even with all of the added work, this unit continues to function quite smoothly.

The **Legislative Office** has responsibility for reviewing nearly 400 bills per session and analyzing about half of them. That office now faces a period of transition with the

recent departure of Carol Williams Bryant who held the position as Chief of this unit for 13 years. A new chief of legislation has been brought on board, Jennifer Stanley, and she is in the process of integrating into the unit and the department. "The small staff within the office did an outstanding job of running the day-to-day operation smoothly and efficiently while the position was vacant," said Louis.

While still learning the ins and outs of state service, Louis is well versed in both natural resource and urban pollution issues and specializes in forestry, fire, and solid waste management issues. He was a lecturer in the Urban Planning Department at the School of Public Policy and Social Research at UCLA, a policy analyst for the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, and a lecturer in the Integrated Waste Management Program at San Francisco State University, Extended Education. He holds a master's degree in environmental policy from UCLA, and a bachelor's degree in cultural anthropology from UC Santa Barbara, and has written numerous publications.

As PAPEL Deputy Director, Louis directs the communications work of CDF, including the department's web activities, represents the department before the Legislature and the Governor's Office, and acts as lead spokesperson with the press. He has been working closely with Director Tuttle and the Resources Agency to promote a greater understanding of the important work CDF does.

Though they sound simple, Louis has set challenging goals for his position, especially considering the staffing and technology challenges PAPEL faces. "My goals are to expand the universe of Californians who understand CDF's diverse and critical work protecting our state's resources and people, and to use all communications tools as effectively as possible in assisting CDF's programs as they fulfill our important mission."

Asst. Deputy Director; Fire Protection Jim Wright

*by Liz Baidoo, student assistant,
Public Affairs and
Public Education Offices*

CDF welcomed Jim Wright to his new post as Assistant Deputy Director of Fire Protection in January.

Formerly Riverside Unit Chief and Riverside County Fire Chief, Jim's move took a little time. "During the transition phase from my old position to the new one, I felt like I lived in a plane for a few weeks," he said.

According to Jim, his position entails oversight of CDF's Fire Protection Programs. "I directly oversee Fire Protection Operations, command and control, the Aviation Management, and Mobile Equipment Units, and assist in the management of our Cooperative Fire Program and pre-fire operations and planning," he said.

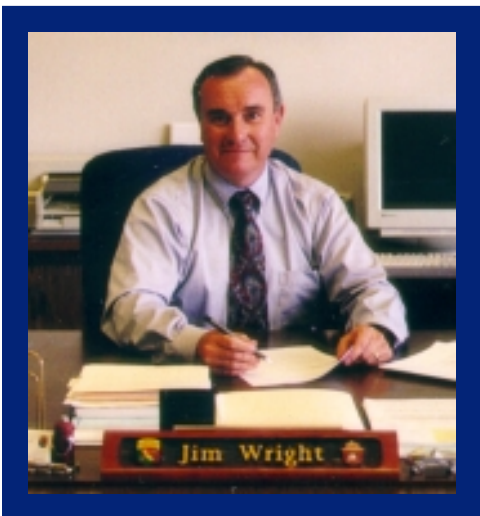
Right now, he is still adjusting from a unit-level perspective to a statewide perspective for policy and agenda setting.

As the 2000 Fire Season rages on through many Western States, Jim has kept busy. He noted that he had concerns about the fire conditions that the state might endure this season. He was right. "I'm also contemplating the effect to our field resources with the growing number of retirements," he said. "They have caused a loss of depth of fire fighting experience in the field. Experience is going to have to be gained quickly in response to the higher demand on our resources."

Jim also has issues regarding other cooperative agencies CDF collaborates with, such as the US Forest Service. "Everyone is having a decline in forces to suppress fires

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in their own jurisdiction. It is placing a higher demand on us to assist," he said.

Jim's CDF career began in Orange County in 1977 as a CDF firefighter. He promoted through the ranks and held positions as a fire apparatus engineer, fire captain, arson investigator, and in 1986 accepted a promotion to battalion chief at the CDF/Riverside County Headquarters in Perris where he served as a fire protection analyst, fire prevention supervisor, and law enforcement coordinator.

By 1990, he promoted to division chief and supervised fire operations in the western portion of the Riverside County. During this assignment he worked closely with contract jurisdictions and had the opportunity to deal with incorporation processes of two newly incorporated cities, Canyon Lake and Temecula. In 1994, Jim was elevated into executive level management with a promotion to deputy chief of operations for CDF/Riverside County Fire Department. In this position, he was responsible for fire protection operations, emergency medical services, and contract jurisdiction administration. He also served as incident commander on one of CDF's statewide major Incident Command Teams.

"I'm a type A personality," Jim said jokingly. "Just a 24/7 type of guy, running at full speed. I wouldn't have gotten where I am without it."

Before arriving at his post in Sacramento, Wright was appointed acting fire chief of the CDF/Riverside County Fire Department in September 1996, a position that became permanent in 1997.

"I'm very excited about this new job," Jim said. "I feel very honored that I was chosen to do it. We've got a great organization and good folks. I want to do my part in management to continue supporting that."

Through his 23 ½ years as a CDF employee, Jim has seen many changes occur through the department. "Coming from Riverside County, I have seen a transition from a wildland fire agency to the largest all risk fire agency in the state," he said. "I have also witnessed growth and service level demands placed on the department, due to growth in the state and, of course, technology changes."

Jim has plans for improvements and changes for fire protection while in his position. "Most importantly, I want to help improve the command and control function at Sacramento Headquarters. We need to reinstate state level command and control that works in conjunction with the command and control at the two regions," he said.

He would also like to see the full development and implementation of the Computer Aided Dispatch (CAD) with the ability to deal with the unique responses CDF faces each year. "I would like to see it become a reliable, functional, and dependable automated system," he said.

Jim wants to make improvements to the automotive fleet, from fire engine design and performance to the implementation of alternative fuel administrative vehicles; improve and strengthen the cooperative fire protection program; and have increased support of the pre-fire

management program.

"I really want to continue learning as much as I can to help in management," Wright said. "Based on retirement projections, we need to have some corporate knowledge and know how to carry us forward in future years."

Lastly, Jim said he would like to see Sacramento Headquarters maintain a higher level of credibility by bringing an aura of greater responsibility and authority. "It has been my experience that there is a common feeling out in the field, questioning the role of Headquarters," he said.

Jim said the biggest change in transplanting from a Southern California lifestyle to Northern California is the living pace. "Coming from Riverside, the time restraints were overwhelming, due to my various commitments within the unit at all hours of the day," he said. "Here my work pace is just as demanding, but evenings are not taken up traveling to and from meetings, giving me more time to study and learn the multitude of subjects and responsibilities I am required to do."

Because of his busy work environment, Jim does not have a lot of spare time for hobbies. "But by being in the Sacramento area, I am hoping to take advantage of amenities that an area like this can bring," he said. "I also want to try to set more time aside for myself and my family."

Joan, Jim's wife, and their youngest daughter, Amanda will be joining him in Sacramento. Joan started work in her new position as the office manager for the Resources Agency in May. He has four other grown children, Jennifer, Cory, Kelly, and Becky and three grandchildren Kayla, Christa, and Kendalynn.

In terms of the future, Jim is looking forward to changes that will come about. "We are entering exciting and changing times," he said. "I'm pleased that I will be a part of that."

Labor Relations Chief **Larry Crabtree**

by Liz Baidoo, student assistant, Public Affairs and Public Education Offices

As with many corporations, agencies, and businesses, CDF must deal with delicate issues between employees and management.

Larry Crabtree, at the helm of CDF's Labor Relations Office since his appointment by CDF Director Andrea Tuttle in May 1999, not only brought to the position a supply of experience and education, but also an air of excitement and exhilaration over his responsibilities as an advocate.

"The best thing about this job is working with people," Larry said. "I enjoy the mental exercise of facing problems and issues, then formulating resolutions."

The Labor Relations Office is the link between each of CDF's 12 bargaining units and management.

Larry's longstanding career with CDF began 26 years ago, as a seasonal firefighter with the Sonoma-Lake-Napa Unit. Throughout his career, he has held a series of positions including firefighter II, fire apparatus engineer and fire captain. He has worked in the Sonoma-Lake-Napa and San Benito- Monterey units.

Before landing in the Labor Relations Chief chair, Larry filled three consecutive elected terms as



the state rank and file representative. That position is in direct contrast to the one he now holds as chair of CDF's management's bargaining team. "I have definitely found it interesting to sit at opposite sides of the bargaining table," he said.

Larry has a certificate of achievement from UC Davis in Labor Management Relations and has undertaken further study at the George Meany Center for Labor Studies. For the last five years, he has also been an employee representative instructor.

"A good advocate can take some parts of each side," he said. "There really isn't a defined clear line of distinction. There is a little right and a little wrong on both sides of an issue."

The Labor Relations Office deals with all employee and employer issues under each particular contract and deals with grievances, complaints, and arbitration.

"Our job is to interpret the MOU (Memorandum of Understanding) language and intent to managers in the field so they understand and apply it," Larry said. "We spend a lot of time up front fielding questions before they become problems. What's good for the employees is usually good for the department, and vice-versa."

Because of the differences in policy, rules, and personnel, Larry said each unit has different contracts, needs, and wishes. "For example, the employees at Information Technology and those who do code enforcement for the Office of the State Fire Marshal deal with different issues and have different backgrounds," he said.

The Labor Relations Unit also has the responsibility of administering the random and reasonable suspicion drug-testing program, acting as an informal clearing house on fair labor standards and peace officers bill of rights.

In his free time, Larry enjoys movies, traveling to new places, and meeting new people. He has three children, Victoria 7, John, 4, and Jennifer, who is married, living in San Antonio, Texas, and will be giving Larry his first grandchild in October.

Coast-Cascade Region Chief **Dave Driscoll**

In February, CDF Director Andrea Tuttle appointed David Driscoll as Chief of the Coast - Cascade Region. "I feel very fortunate and honored to have been provided this opportunity to serve the department and the citizens of California", said Chief Driscoll.

Dave is responsible for the overall management of 11 units, the contract county of Marin, headquarters offices at Santa Rosa and Redding, and the North Operations Emergency Command Center. In addition, he coordinates the efforts of an estimated 2,500 permanent and

seasonal personnel that protect 13.5 million acres of State Responsibility Area with an overall budget of \$130 million.

Chief Driscoll's career with CDF began in 1971 as a firefighter. He quickly promoted through the ranks until he landed in the administrative position of Deputy Chief of Fire Control Operations for the CDF

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Southern Region in 1984. He also served as Deputy Chief for the CDF/ Riverside County Fire Department and as San Bernardino Unit Chief before moving north and accepting the Coast Area Chief position for the Coast – Cascade Region in 1996.

Dave has definite administrative goals as region chief. They include: firefighter and citizen safety, fair and judicious timber harvest plan enforcement, and workforce parity. He plans to address these issues by integrating key components of the California Fire Plan that specifically address the costs and losses due to wildfire annually, by ensuring that the training that state firefighters attend is state-of-the-art, by enforcement of timber harvest plans within the region, and lastly by encouraging a diverse workforce.

Riverside Unit Chief

Larry Benson

CDF Director Andrea Tuttle appointed Larry Benson as the Riverside Unit Chief in February. Chief Benson has over 29 years experience in his fire service career, 28 of which have been served in Riverside County.

His fire service career started in the Coachella Valley as an engineer

in 1971. In 1974, he promoted to fire captain at Temecula. During his tenure in Temecula, Chief Benson was a key participant in the development of a partnership between CDF and Kaiser Etna Corporation, which provided capital outlay monies to completely remodel the fire station and add a new apparatus room.

While a fire captain in Temecula, he also spent the fire seasons of 1978 and 1979 as a helitack captain at the Ryan Air Attack Base in Hemet. In 1980, Chief Benson promoted to battalion chief at Ryan Air Attack Base. In 1983, Chief Benson transferred to the Beaumont Battalion and in 1984 to the San Jacinto Battalion. He then promoted to division chief in charge of administration. As the administrative officer, he managed both the state



and Riverside County fire budgets.

In 1990, he transferred to the Central Division and later to the Southwest Division. In 1995, he worked at the Bautista Division until his promotion to Deputy Fire Chief of Operations. In September of 1998, he promoted to Chief of Operations for CDF's Sierra-South Region.

Chief Benson has also served as Incident Commander on one of CDF's statewide Incident Command Teams. During the 1993 fire siege, he served as incident commander on several large and damaging fires in Riverside County receiving a com-

mendation of merit.

As the Riverside Unit Chief/ County Fire Chief, Larry is responsible for more than 88 fire stations, 600 permanent workers, and 800 volunteer firefighters.

Chief Benson says he has a great team in his unit, and with 28 years of fire service in the county he is definitely qualified to say that.

Cascade Area Chief

Jeff Jones

In February, Jeff Jones was appointed Cascade Area Chief by CDF Director Andrea Tuttle. Chief Jones oversees CDF operations in the Cascade area which is comprised of the Lassen-Modoc, Butte, Nevada-Yuba-Placer, Siskiyou, Shasta-Trinity, and Tehama-Glenn units. In addition to managing the six units, he is also busy overseeing management of the region's Operations Emergency Command Center, conservation camps, training and safety, and air program.

The region has seen its share of disastrous fires in recent years, the most notable being the fire sieges of 1999. Chief Jones stresses the



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importance of continued cooperation between state, federal, and local fire agencies. "As we saw last summer, mutual aid becomes a key component of the firefighting effort when multiple fires are burning simultaneously in the region".

Chief Jones came to the position with a wealth of experience having

worked his way through the ranks from seasonal firefighter. His administrative career began as a battalion chief and training officer in the Shasta-Trinity Unit. From there, he promoted to the Northern Emergency Operations Command Center where he served as assistant fire control officer, command center chief, and deputy chief of operations. His latest assignment as staff chief of

operations allowed Chief Jones to fully plan, organize, direct, and allocate emergency resources within the region.

Chief Jones resides in the Redding area and enjoys recreational vehicle travel with his wife and children. The Jones are close to their five children and one grand child and devote free time to family related activities.

Recognition for jobs well done

Director honors employees

In March, Director Tuttle announced her choices for the Director's Annual Recognition Program Awards. CDF award recipients were honored at an awards ceremony on May 25, in Sacramento.

Linda Sandelin of Resource Management received the **Lewis A. Moran Award**, the highest award bestowed by CDF in recognition of superior performance that has significantly exceeded, in quality and quantity, that which is usually expected of an incumbent in his/her classification. She received \$500, and her name has been engraved on the perpetual plaque displayed in the Director's Office.

The **Leadership Award**, and \$300 went to Bob Wirtz of the Sierra-South Region in recognition of his ability to motivate and inspire others, and for his long-term commitment to the values and mission of CDF.

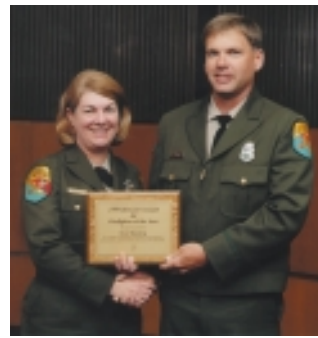
David LeMay with the Office of the State Fire Marshal, and Danny Nichols of the Sierra-South Region, were co-recipients of the **Innovation Award**. The award is given for

unusual creativity, inventiveness, and innovation in the resolution of problems, and for the ability to achieve objectives despite constraints. They each received \$300.

The **Organizational Enhancement Award** was presented to



CDF Director Andrea Tuttle presents Associate State Archeologist Linda Sandelin with the Lewis A. Moran Award.



Heavy Equipment Operator Fred Westrip accepts the Firefighter of the Year Award from CDF Director Andrea Tuttle.

David Athey of the Santa Clara Unit for superior performance that enhanced the ability of CDF to be an efficient, effective, quality organization and for his ability to promote outstanding customer service and work process improvements. He also received \$300.

Fred Westrip of the Santa Clara Unit (now at the Shasta-Trinity Unit) was the first recipient of the

Firefighter of the Year Award for his superior performance and dedication to the protection of life and property, his commitment to the values and mission of the Department and to the safety and well-being of fellow firefighters. He received \$300.

Superior Accomplishment Awards and \$300 were presented to the following employees in recognition of their superior performance above normal job requirements. Paul Laundry, William Britton (Shasta-Trinity Unit), Leah Sandberg (Lassen-Modoc Unit), Michael Ursitti, Steven Barrett, Mark Brunton, Dave Ault, and Pedro Santana (Santa Clara Unit), Richard Jenkins, (Cascade Area Office), Greg Guyan (Nevada-Yuba-Placer Unit), Denise Hill-Weikert (Siskiyou Unit), Peter

Yaninek (San Mateo-Santa Cruz Unit), Nancy Minnich (Coast Area Office), Tim Sappok, Alton "Red" Taylor, Sisto Holguin (Sierra-South Region), Steve Faris, William Bonney (San Bernardino Unit), Sandy Eldridge-Parker, Dolores Chacon (Sierra-South Region), Jake Goetz (San Benito-Monterey Unit),

*See **HONORS**, page 11*

HONORS: *from page 10*

Bill Weaver (Sacramento Fire Protection), Fred Lambert (Sacramento Technical Services), Lisa Boyd (Sacramento Public Affairs), Wanda Wellerstein and Rebecca Wolter, (Sacramento Human Resources), Kim Archuleta, Toni Frederickson, Dan Anaya, Dan Marksbury, Betsy Weiss, Kelly Lynch, Evelyn Hom, Joe Rackelmann, Gary Dietz (Sacramento Information Technology).

Team Awards went to Shasta-Trinity Unit staff members Mike Hopper, David Harp, George Cassel, Keith White, Marie Baker, Mary

Rodriguez and Neverley Shoemake. Another team award went to Frank Kemper, Don Ferguson (Coast-Cascade Region), Lisa Sanders (Sierra-South Region), and Mike Weger (Tulare Unit). Staff members Paul Miller, Mary Paramo and Timothy Stewart from the San Bernardino Unit also received a team award.

In addition to the employee awards, Director Tuttle also announced two **Partnership Awards**, which are given to individuals and organizations outside of CDF in

"Today's ceremony is to recognize the accomplishments of everyone, and especially to recognize those who have given special extra efforts this year."

Andrea Tuttle, CDF Director

recognition of their ability to work in cooperative partnership with CDF in the resolution of issues. One Partnership Award went to Jennifer Renk of the Diablo Firesafe Council. Another Partnership Award went to Pacific, Gas and Electric. Partnership Awards are presented locally by the nominating parties.

Firefighters honored for 1999 efforts

by Liz Baidoo, student assistant, Public Affairs and Public Education Offices

On the morning of January 25, 2000, skies were overcast, the streets of Sacramento were soggy, and a brisk breeze ran through coats and jackets, chilling bones.

But on the west steps of the State Capitol, the thoughts of a large crowd from four agencies and the state assembly looked back to the scorching months of August, September, October, and November 1999, when much of California was under siege by wildfires.

Taking the opportunity to honor and pay tribute to the thousands of fire personnel who put their lives on the line during the siege, CDF joined the Office of Emergency Services, the California Conservation Corps, the Department of Corrections, and the National Guard for a Firefighter Appreciation Day.

Firefighter Appreciation Day, resolved by the state assembly and senate, was hosted by State Assemblymember Dick Dickerson. "The agencies we are honoring are so well deserving," Assemblymember Dickerson said. "The toll could have



Personnel from those California agencies that responded to the disastrous fires of 1999 were on hand for the January tribute.

Assemblyman Dick Dickerson, shown on the left, presents CDF Director Tuttle with a resolution honoring our firefighters.

Photo by Robert Eplett, OES.



been far worse without the tremendous effort by our state firefighting organizations."

CDF Director Andrea Tuttle accepted on behalf of the department, expressing gratitude towards all personnel who fought the seemingly endless fires. "The fire siege was a tremendous battle," said Andrea Tuttle, CDF Director. "This is our time to proclaim our pride and

gratitude to all California firefighters who joined in the fight."

She also commented on the dedication of CDF employees. "At the Jones fire, 21 CDFers reported for duty in Redding, sacrificing the safety of their own homes to join in the fight."

The Director graciously thanked the inmate fire crews. "As firefighters, these crews learn teamwork and other vital skills for use in rebuilding lives."

Resources Secretary Mary Nichols acknowledged all agencies, calling each employee out on the line a hero.

"Working together, these six departments kept the fires at bay for days, sometimes weeks," Nichols said. "I want you to know how truly thankful we are for your tireless sacrifice."

The ceremony included the presentation of colors by the CDF honor guard. Various assembly members presented each agency with an official California Legislature Resolution.

Update on an injured colleague **Fire Captain Leo Zupancic**

by Morna Morrison, CDF receptionist, Sacramento HQ

On August 27, 1999, CDF Fire Captain Leo Zupancic was involved in a serious accident enroute to a medical aid call in Calaveras County. The engine he was driving slid off the roadway and rolled over one and one-half times, 20 feet down an embankment. There were three other CDFers on the engine. The two firefighters seated in the rear of the engine, Cash Pyle and Jason Finney, were not critically injured. Fire Apparatus Engineer Mitch Evans sustained a shoulder injury. Regrettably, Leo was trapped in the cab. An accident team used the Jaws of Life to cut him out and quickly

transported him to the closest hospital.

Leo had no feeling below his chest and was air lifted to the Santa Clara Valley Medical Center where his type of injury could be treated. Since then, Leo has moved into a less intensive rehabilitation home and follows a rigorous therapy schedule. Though he has made great progress, he has not regained feeling. The great news is that Leo remains optimistic. He aims to live independently and build a new home in a few months designed especially for quadriplegics. Leo attributes his progress to the tremendous support

and encouragement from friends and strangers throughout the state.

Close friends Ray Vining and Guy Daniels have been following Leo's progress with frequent visits. They work together to keep us updated by sharing their visits on the CDF Firefighters web page, www.cdf-firefighters.org. Vining attributes Leo's remarkable progress to your prayers. "Please continue to pray for Leo," he says, "And remember to send him a letter of encouragement."

Leo welcomes cards and letters at his current address: 20621 Mayall Street, Chatsworth, California 91311.

FIRE SEASON 2000

Helicopters grounded: Amphibious plane comes to California

Just as the Western States were going up in flames, the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) issued an Emergency Airworthiness Directive bulletin about the main rotor masts on all Bell "Huey" model helicopters that required CDF to ground its helicopter fleet.

"The mast is the shaft that connects the main rotor system on top to the helicopter's transmission located in the body of the copter. That mast is responsible for holding up 10,500 pounds of helicopter," said Dave Wardall, CDF Deputy Chief, Aircraft Maintenance and Engineering. Fatal crashes involving Bell "Huey" models in other parts of the country prompted the FAA directive requiring that those "Huey" models whose

masts fell within certain retirement index numbers (RIN) – an equation that determines the life span of the part - be grounded and their masts replaced.

CDF complied immediately, checking the RIN on all 11 copters, nine statewide, plus two maintenance back-ups, and ordered the grounding of the entire fleet. "This could not have happened at a worse time," said Jim Wright, CDF Assistant Deputy Director, Fire Protection. "A grounding of our entire helicopter fleet was certainly an impact to our initial attack capabilities, but we quickly reacted and initiated actions to help lessen the deficiency of this situation."

CDF Aviation personnel worked

diligently on two CDF helicopters to replace their masts with ones CDF had in stock and got them back in service within 48 hours of the FAA directive. After a third mast was received, another copter was back in service within four days. Two more masts arrived on August 4 and those copters were back in service the next day. "When the masts arrive, we paint them with a protective coating, wait for that to dry, attach them to the copter, and send them back out to do their jobs," said Dave. With the FAA directive grounding Bell "Huey" helicopters across the country the demand for masts from the manufacturer is tremendous.

*See **COPTER**, page 13*

COPTER: from page 12

CDF requested special consideration for masts based on an obvious emergency service need. As of August 15 all nine helicopters had been retrofitted with new masts and returned to service. Only the two backup helicopters are still grounded and awaiting new masts.

Contract helicopters, and the California National Guard Blackhawk helicopters were able to help fill the void. And, for extra insurance, CDF went out and contracted for temporary use of a Martin Mars amphibious water/foam dropping aircraft from Canada.

The 1946 "Mars" is one of two left in the world. It is amphibious and operates by scooping water out of large lakes and reservoirs. It can hold up to 7,200 gallons of water, drop that in two separate loads, and carries 150 gallons of Class A foam that can be mixed with the water on demand. "With the large number of



An FAA bulletin about Bell "Huey" model helicopters forced CDF to ground all of its copters until their masts - indicated by arrow - could be replaced.

fires burning in remote, rugged terrain, the Mars is a benefit with its tremendous load capability," said Wright.

The Mars can only operate out of large bodies of water. It needs approximately five miles for its approach, to skim the water and fill its tanks, and to climb back up. Skimming a lake or reservoir, the Mars scoops water into 7-inch



The Martin Mars can hold up to 7,200 gallons of water, drop it in two separate loads, and carry 150 gallons of foam to mix with the water.

forward facing "straws" that fill the tanks in 30 seconds. The plane operates with a crew of four and can fly up to seven hours before refueling. It's a huge, impressive aircraft, roughly the size of a 747, and cruises at 190 mph.

The Canadian company, Forestry Flying Tankers, has operated the Mars in British Columbia since 1959 with a blemish free safety record.

The dangers of fire fighting hit home

Four of CDF's own recently spent time in a Southern California hospital recuperating from burn injuries they received when overrun by flames while battling the Pechanga fire in Riverside County on August 2.

Fire Apparatus Engineer Andrew Schneller and Firefighters Jeremy Damon, Ehron Phillips, and Chris Hayden of Engine 2382 out of the CDF Nevada-Yuba-Placer Unit, were protecting structures in the Woodchuck Campground near Temecula when a thunderstorm cell passed over. Sudden, erratic winds caused the flames to quickly spread in several directions overrunning the crew and the engine.

All received second, and in some cases, third degree burns. While recovery from burn injuries is



The accident scene and Engine 2382 gets a thorough going over by the investigation team.

painful and difficult, they were all very lucky that their injuries were not worse. Firefighters Hayden and Phillips were released from the hospital on August 4, and FAE Schneller and Firefighter Damon were released on August 14.

Chief Deputy Director Woody Allshouse and Fire Protection Deputy Director Glen Newman flew to Southern California the morning after the crew was burned to check on their condition. That same day, CDF escorted the firefighters' family members from Northern California to the hospital to be with their loved ones.

The Pechanga Fire burned from July 29 to August 8 before being contained at 11,000+ acres. The four firefighters were part of a more than 1700-person force fighting this blaze.

As with any incident such as this, CDF activated a Serious Accident Investigation Team to determine what happened, and how CDF can prevent it from happening again.

Bovine has no beef with rescue

by Kathleen McKinley Fowlie, staff writer, The Valley Herald

The three CDFers in this photo are Fire Captain Sean Norman, Fire Apparatus Engineer Jeff Martin and Firefighter I Andrew Hunter. Photo by Jacqui Howard.

Fire Captain – Paramedic Sean Norman of the Sunol Station, Santa Clara Unit, said that they had attended large animal rescue training a year ago. It was quite a coincidence that they had just been talking about how they had yet to use what they had learned in that training a week before Betsy needed rescue.



Betsy the bovine had a rough day at the pasture on Tuesday (June 27). Firefighters worked almost five hours to save the pregnant cow after she slipped under a fence and fell down a 35-foot ravine. The unfortunate mother-to-be had been trapped since Monday night. Betsy's owner called the fire department and a veterinarian at about 10 a.m. Tuesday after they couldn't get her out.

Firefighters from the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection in Sunol and its Large Animal Rescue Team, called in from Felton, used slings and a tractor to pull out the 1,000-pound Hereford-Angus cross, said CDF Captain Curt Itson.

"She had been there all night. The poor thing. She's safe now," Itson said. Betsy's owner, Natalie Kruger, said she was grateful for the fire department's help.

"I was feeling really bad. I only made one call and I didn't know it was going to cause such a big commotion, but I am thrilled she's all right," Kruger said.

On Tuesday evening, after the ordeal was over and all the rescue workers and fire trucks were gone, Betsy rested under a water mister in her pen, where she lives with an-

other pregnant cow, Dougie. "They are our grass control. The neighbors borrow them for lawn mowing," said Natalie.

Betsy and Dougie, who are 2 ½ years old, are expected to give birth in three months. The Krugers were planning to sell the calves, but now they might become too attached to the calves, especially after the rescue, Natalie said.

They might even name Betsy's calf after the fire department, something like "CDF" or "Lucky".

A very tall Short Haul

Forestry Fire Pilot Gary Lott wrote the following account of a short haul rescue he and the rest of the crew of Copter 202 out of Bieber Helitack in Lassen County responded to on May 8.

Late in the afternoon on May 8, Beiber Helitack received a call from the CDF Lassen-Modoc Unit Emergency Command Center inquiring if we were short haul capable that day. We informed them we were, and they advised us to stand by for a dispatch to Mt. Shasta on a rescue request. We immediately began to load the short haul equipment from the helitender into Copter 202. Just as

we were completing this, the dispatch was announced and we lifted off en route to Mt. Shasta City to meet with the Search and Rescue Commander, Sergeant Dave Nicolson of the Siskiyou County Sheriffs Office.

We arrived at the Mercy Hospital helipad at 1710 hrs and shut down to confer with and be briefed by Sgt. Nicolson and the crew of California

Highway Patrol Helicopter H-14. The CHP copter had made a reconnaissance of the site where our victim was located - on Mt. Shasta at the 12,600-foot level.

Sgt. Nicolson advised us that at approximately 1415 hrs a climber on Mt. Shasta had fallen from an area just below the summit known as the

*See **SHORT HAUL**, page 15*

SHORT HAUL: *from page 14*

"Red Bank Headwall". He had tumbled and slid down a south facing ice chute for approximately 1500'. A climbing guide who was nearby with another group of climbers had made his way over to the victim and assessed his condition and then called for help on his cell phone. While this was taking place, the victims climbing companions made their way down to his location. The guide informed the rescue unit that the victim had a severe fracture of his left leg, was going into shock, and slipping in and out of consciousness. A storm front was moving in from the west and was clearly visible across the valley less than 5 miles away. The guide had to get his group off the mountain before dark and left the victim in the care of his climbing companions to await rescue.

At the conclusion of the briefing we rigged the aircraft for short-haul and loaded the crew for a close reconnaissance of the site. Upon arrival we found the victim on a steep icy slope of approximately 45 degrees. The wind was a steady 5-10 knots up slope from the south. I performed an out-of-ground-effect hover-power-check, a test that is always done when a rescue will be performed with the copter hovering above 25 feet and there is any kind of ground slope. It is actually easier for a copter to hover at 25 feet or less off the ground, therefore, this test run was done to determine if we had sufficient power to safely accomplish

this rescue. We did. We went through the Go-No-Go check list with the entire crew and everyone agreed that the mission was a go.

We descended to a small level area at 10,000' known as Lake Helen to drop off one crewmember who would receive the victim and assist him to the ground after we picked him up. We had decided to extract him using a rescue collar as the slope was too steep and slippery to attempt to load him into a stokes litter. The aircraft then returned to the victim's location. Under the direction of the crew chief, Fire Captain Tim McCarthy, the aircraft was positioned over the victim. The rescuer, Fire Apparatus Engineer Aaron Burroughs, was then lowered to the victim by rescue supervisor, Fire Captain Norm Ross. FAE Burroughs placed the cinch collar on the victim. They were then lifted clear of the slope and the helicopter descended to Lake Helen where the second rescuer, Firefighter I Brian Desmet, and two climbers who volunteered to help, caught him and lowered him into the stokes litter. He was then secured in the litter and loaded onto Copter 202 for the short downhill run to Mercy Hospital in Mt Shasta City.

As we landed at the hospital to offload the victim the first rain drops from the advancing storm began to fall on the pad. We secured our equipment, loaded the crew and beat a hasty retreat to the southeast to refuel in Redding and return to Bieber.



Chief Deputy Director Woody Allshouse took this photo of Copter 102, out of the Kneeland Helitack Base in Humboldt-Del Norte. This short haul training exercise took place at Lake Commanche on June 23.

Sgt. Nicolson later informed us that the medical personnel were able to save the victim's leg and he is expected to make a full recovery. We were also told that had we not been able to rescue the victim prior to the arrival of the storm, he would probably not have survived because the mountain was inaccessible for the next 24-36 hrs. That left the crew with a very good feeling about our part in the rescue.

Water rescue training

by Preston Fouts, fire apparatus engineer, Fresno-Kings Unit

When temperatures rise, we get into fire season mode while the public looks for ways to keep cool. This can create a greater potential for dealing with water rescue emergencies. As first responders, there is

the possibility of responding to a water rescue any day of the year, be it from floods, a vehicle into a waterway, or the public trying to beat the heat of summer. The question is: Are you ready to *SAFELY* handle a water

rescue emergency?

Recently, the Madera Division of the Madera-Mariposa-Merced Ranger Unit asked that question and found that there was a definite need for training to safely handle water rescues. To get this training, we looked to our neighbors, the Fresno

*See **SWIFT WATER**, page 16*

SWIFT WATER: from page 15

City Fire Department, which deals with water rescues on a much more frequent basis than our unit. The result was a 6-hour class taught by Fire Captain Mike Mollica and seven other firefighters from the Fresno City Fire Department, and sponsored by Madera County Fire. "Water Rescue for the First Responder" drew 24 students including Madera County paid call firefighters and CDF personnel.

The class emphasis was employee

safety while dealing with a water emergency. This mostly dealt with the canals that run through the valley and the seasonal creeks and rivers running through the mountains and foothills of our division.

The first half of the course was in-classroom; dealing with safety issues, water dynamics of the rivers and canals, safety gear, and how to rescue a conscious patient from shore. The second half of the class was hands-on using small rope bags known as throw bags. This included simulated live rescues using the

Fresno Fire Department firefighters as patients in a canal where the students had to throw them the ropes to be rescued.

The class was very positive in many aspects. It showed first responders the dangers of water rescue and how to safely execute and handle a rescue. Utilizing the expertise of the Fresno Fire Department to gain new knowledge for our agency also opened up new opportunities for future interagency training.

Media converge on Academy

On July 28, reporters from around the state got an opportunity to experience the CDF Academy first hand at Media Day 2000. The purpose of the event was to make the media familiar with the training that CDF crews go through to handle their emergency response role in California. It also showcased the outstanding staff and facilities of the CDF Academy.

Reporters were fitted into turn-outs and became academy students. They soon found themselves cutting apart crushed cars with the Jaws of Life, navigating 12-ton fire engines down the Emergency Vehicle Operations Course, crawling through a "smoke"-filled building to find a baby in need of rescue, squeezing through a 16" pipe in a confined space rescue drill, and handling a skidding car on

the skid pan. The 100 degree+ temperatures that day added to the realism of the firefighters' job. By the end of the day, reporters and photographers were hot and sweaty, and they left with a better understanding of the work and conditions that CDF personnel endure as well as an appreciation for the expert training that the Academy has provided since 1967.

Backing an engine through an obstacle course proved to be too much for the "students" - lots of cones were flattened.



Chief of Training Dave Ebert demonstrates the sand table. This miniature wildland/community setup is used to teach students how to coordinate an attack on an incident.

Members of the media started the day by donning Nomex and helmets. The 100 + degree day provided a perfect dose of "firefighter" reality.



Battalion Chief Nancy Koerperich not only did a great job pulling things together at the Academy for the media, but also took some time for this interview with Channel 40 from Sacramento.

"The Supplemental Module"

In an effort to keep hiring on pace with retirements, CDF has looked at several options to increase the number of students in Basic Fire Control classes. The Academy in Ione was reaching capacity, so a pilot class away from the Academy was looked at as an alternative. A Firefighter Module was given at Clark Training Center in Riverside. Since the class was not at the Academy in Ione, it was not given a number. It will forever be known as "The Supplemental Module".



The top three graduates from the class are from L to R: #3 Adam Mattos, Lassen-Modoc Unit, #2 Tim Wilson, Tulare Unit, and #3 Erik Johnson, San Mateo-Santa Cruz Unit.

The class graduated 25 new permanent fire apparatus engineers on May 12, 2000 - the first class to graduate in blue.

CDF Academy grads

Firefighter Module #22 and Driver Operator Module #22 graduated on February 18, 2000. The top three graduates from Firefighter Module #22 are from L to R: #3 Peter Billing, Tulare Unit, #2 Paul Fleckenstein, San Luis Obispo Unit, #1 Scott Neal, Amador-El Dorado Unit.



The top three graduates from Driver Operator Module #22 are from L to R: #3 Jeff Schlafer, San Mateo-Santa Cruz Unit, #2 Issac Lake, Humboldt-Del Norte Unit, and #1 Gene Warnert, Madera-Mariposa-Merced Unit.



Firefighter Module and Driver Operator Module #23 graduated from the CDF Academy on May 19, 2000.

The top graduates from Driver Operator Module #23 are L to R: #3 Christopher Palmer, Riverside Unit, #2 Jeffrey Veik, Riverside Unit, and #1 Dennis Boic, Shasta-Trinity Unit.



The top graduates from Firefighter Module #23 are L to R: #3 Steve Robinson, Nevada-Yuba-Placer Unit, #2 Bill Reid, Shasta-Trinity Unit, and in a tie for #1 Greg Ewing from San Luis Obispo and Joe Baldwin from Sonoma-Lake-Napa Unit.



Siskiyou holds basic engine operation class

The Siskiyou Unit, in cooperation with the College of the Siskiyous, hosted Basic Fire Engine Operation (BFEO) #55 from May 26 through June 9, 2000. The class graduated 31 new limited term engineers. Siskiyou Unit personnel spent many hours preparing for the 14-day training. A total of 16 fire engines and two stakesides were used for the class. Personnel at the Weed Forest Fire Station did an outstanding job tracking the 16 engines and two stakesides, as other equipment used for the class.

The College of the Siskiyous provided meals, housing, classroom space, and office support. Local businesses supplied many other items necessary for a successful class. The Mt. Shasta Fire Department supplied a live fire building, personnel, and grounds to run scenarios.

Scenario Day provided students with four different challenges: a live structure fire, a live vehicle fire, a traffic accident with multiple victims, and a wildland fire drill.

In addition, an Emergency Vehicle Operations Course was set-up in the college parking lot. A loop drive was set up throughout the city of Weed, and two cross-country routes were used; each was over 200 miles with a wide variety of road conditions.



Beau Tipton on the left, and Scott Tavalero on the right, tied for top grad honors. Cadcade Area Chief Jeff Jones, center, was on hand to congratulate the whole class.

Last year, in response to a federal mandate by the Occupational Safety and Health Administration, CDF implemented a new respirator

program. Regulated by the California Occupational Safety and Health Administration (Cal-OSHA), CDF is

responsible for compliance within the department. CDF has been granted two variances by Cal-OSHA, extending the mandatory compliance date to May 21, 2000.

Although the program has been in effect since May 22, 1999, CDF is still in the process of implementation. CDF Safety Officer Galen McCray said this is because of 1999's fire siege, when staff was not available to take medical examinations.

Affecting more than 5,000 CDF employees, the respirator program includes a medical surveillance program, annual respirator fit testing, and the 2-in-2-out standard.

Before the federal mandate, Galen said a well-defined respirator program did not exist in CDF. A state-wide task group assisted with the plan of the program including representatives from the Sierra-South and Coast-Cascade regions.

"New to everyone who uses respirators across the nation is the 2-in-2-out standard," he said.

According to Galen, the 2-in-2-out deals with interior attacks on structures, which is not limited to buildings, but can also include aircraft, boats, trains, and large vehicles

where atmosphere immediately dangerous to life and health may be present. Before firefighters make an interior attack at a structure fire,

tion — if there is a known rescue with lives in peril and danger to occupants of the structure.

Galen said the department's

position on this policy is "to enhance the safety of our fireground operations and firefighter,

New respirator program allows CDFers to breathe easier

by Liz Baidoo, student assistant, Public Affairs and Public Education Offices

two firefighters outside (the rapid intervention crew) must be appropriately trained and equipped to make entry to perform rescue operations.

"This standard was developed by OSHA after many firefighters lost their lives when they became trapped in a burning structure and personnel were not immediately equipped and available to perform search and rescue activities," said Galen. The policy is enforced dependent on each situation, with the incident commander making the determination. The obvious excep-

HAZMAT teams, and folks responding to medical aids that can be exposed to airborne infectious diseases." The N-95 HEPA respirator is also considered a tight-fitting respirator and, therefore, falls under Section 5147. These standards can be found in the California Code of Regulations, General Industry Safety Orders, Title 8, Section 5144.

"This regulation is applicable to people doing routine work that requires the use of a tight fitting respirator," said Galen.

CDF's respirator program consists of 11 components:

1. A written respiratory protection program.
2. Appropriate selection of respirators for use.
3. A medical surveillance program.
4. Annual respirator fit testing.
5. Appropriate care and use of respirators.
6. Appropriate maintenance and care of respirators.
7. Optimum breathing air quality and use in air supplied equipment.
8. Correct identification of filters, cartridges, and canisters.
9. Current training.
10. Periodic program evaluations.
11. Accurate documentation of medical records, fit testing results, air samplings, etc.

Computer viruses and you

CDF employees found out the hard way the inconvenience that can be caused by computer viruses when the department's e-mail system had to be shut down for over a week during May. While everything is back up and running, we want employees to take extra care to prevent the introduction of any future viruses

into the CDF system. CDF can receive 20-40 virus infected e-mail attachments each day. The department is guaranteed to get every major virus that occurs on the Internet, mostly because of the volume of mail we send and receive, and because of the myriad of agencies we communicate with. Respon-

sible use of the e-mail system will go a long way to reducing the risk of viruses. Look for tips highlighted throughout this issue of the 'Communique' that will help minimize your risk of being infected or spreading a computer virus at work or at home.



Catalina provided unique fire fighting challenges

by Kelly Zombro, battalion chief, San Diego Unit

Last July 22, 1999, a vegetation fire broke out on Catalina Island. The fire spread upslope quickly and became a threat to structures including the Islands Airport. Additional resources were necessary and due to an agreement developed by the Los Angeles County Fire Department, U.S. Navy Hovercraft were utilized to ferry the resources. All together six Fire Crews and four Type One Engines were taken to the island as well as several support vehicles i.e. overhead, California Department of Corrections, and the CDF Agency Representatives vehicle.

Chiefs Steve Heil and Stan Lake were sent as CDF Agency Representatives, Chief Kelly Zombro was sent out as finance chief. Approximately 99 percent of Catalina Island is SRA that is protected by the Los Angeles

County Fire Department. Chiefs Heil and Lake were kept busy assisting LA County and supporting them logistically. Being on an island presented unique challenges such as setting up feeding, sleeping, showering, etc. The answer to these challenges was established through agreements made with several of the local vendors which allowed the fire to be supported logistically without ferrying in additional resources and staffing.

Utilizing the Hovercraft was as unique as it was enjoyable. The equipment that was going to the island was staged and loaded on the beach in Long Beach. Once at the island, the equipment was unloaded at the "Island Express" helicopter facility. Loading the vehicles on the

Hovercraft took 30-45 minutes and the trip across the channel took 50 minutes. In 1998, the LA County Fire Department did some training and practice trips to Catalina Island utilizing the Hovercraft. This training paid off allowing the resources to be properly and quickly placed and stabilized on the Hovercraft.

While on the Catalina Island, many of the island-locals stated that they were unaware of a fire of this size ever occurring on the Island. The total acreage of the fire was 320 acres of heavy brush with 14 foot canopies and steep terrain. During this assignment, we enjoyed an excellent working relationship with the L.A. County Fire Department staff. This was a good assignment!



One way to get to a fire on an island.

Things were a little different in 1943

Tehama-Glen Unit Chief Bill Hoehman forwarded this bit of history to the Communique'. It was written by Gladys Craspay who in 1943 at age 19 signed up with the then Division of Forestry.

June 1943 my father took me, Gladys Rougeot, my sister, Mildred Rougeot, 16, and a friend, Lydia Carminati, 16, to King City, California in Monterey County where we signed up with the California Division of Forestry. I was to be a truck driver, Mildred and Lydia firefighters. My drivers test was a few miles out of town up a hill.

We were stationed on "Mustang" Highway 198, a mile off the road. We had to open a wire gate going and coming. We lived in a tent on a

wooden platform. We had a telephone and gas lantern. We were there a month and went to one fire in Priest Valley and one fire in the middle of the night on Mustang Grade.

After one month, Lydia quit. My sister and I were sent to Calandra Lookout east of Soledad for three weeks as relief "lookouts." We were on the edge of the "Pinnacles". We watched for fires 24 hours a day as well as airplanes and the weather. We enjoyed every day of it. We rode horse back up to the lookout and back down. We were next taken to Smith Mountain where we could look down on our folks



Gladys Rougeot was the driver, and her sister Mildred the firefighter, stationed about a mile off Highway 198 in Monterey County in 1943.

ranch to the south and Coalinga on the east. We especially enjoyed Smith Mountain. Lots of trees and wildlife. We were on duty 24 hours

See 1943, page 20

1943: from page 19

daily, reporting fires and planes. We walked the last 500 feet to the lookout. Water was pumped from the truck to a tank. We had a hand pump in the kitchen part of the lookout.

At the end of three weeks, my sister had to go back to school. I was then given a Model A fire truck and stationed at my parents ranch in

Indian Valley. I went to one fire in Portuguese Canyon between Indian Valley and Vineyard Canyon, the only time I used a radio. On November 3, I was called to the Bradley Station. As soon as I reached Bradley, I was sent as a firefighter with Oscar Hazelrig to a fire in Hames Valley. After the fire, Oscar took the Model A to King City. The first part of December, an older couple joined

me at Bradley. The three of us were there through February, when we were terminated. I met my future husband John Craspay at Bradley in December. We were married in April of 1944. I was offered a job again with the CDF after I was married, but I turned it down. I thoroughly enjoyed my short career with the CDF.

Computer Virus Tip 1

All Internet e-mail is being scanned before being delivered to Outlook users, but this will not stop ALL viruses. The safest option is to NEVER OPEN AN ATTACHMENT from Internet e-mail.

Remembering the 1906 Earthquake

by Emmet Monahan, fire captain, Santa Clara Unit

The 94th anniversary of the 1906 San Francisco Earthquake and fire was commemorated on April 18, 2000 at 5:13 a.m. at Lotta's Fountain at Market and Kearney Streets in San Francisco. Over 500 people gathered to honor the survivors of the 1906 earthquake including a number of CDFers from the Belmont Station in the Santa Clara Unit.

Battalion Chief Kirk Landuyt, Fire Captain Scott Jalbert, Fire apparatus Engineer Melvin Gage, and Firefighter II Carlos Lomeli, as well as myself, Fire Captain Emmet Monahan joined with members of the San Francisco Fire department and other Bay Area fire departments for this event.

The event at Lotta's Fountain was first started more than 50 years ago by an organization called "The South of Market Boys." The legendary Downey brothers, who had all survived the quake, were the driving force behind this event. Each year they would come in their bowler hats



Standing at "the hydrant that saved the Mission District" are from L to R: Fire Captain Scott Jalbert, Fire Apparatus Engineer Melvin Gage, Fire Captain Emmet Monahan, Firefighter II Carlos Lomeli, and Battalion Chief Kirk Landuyt.

and suits to lead the festivities. The last brother passed away four years ago and one of their daughters now emcees the event at Lotta's Fountain. The fountain is significant to the 1906 earthquake, as a meeting place for people and a location for leaving messages.

A moment of silence, a blaring of fire engine sirens, the placing of a wreath over the fountain, and 11 survivors of the 1906 earthquake

made the event special. As the festivities at Lotta's Fountain ended, the CDF personnel headed to 20th and Church Street for a 6:30 a.m. ceremony consisting of the painting of the fire hydrant that saved the Mission District following the 1906 earthquake. Each year, members of the crowd spray paint in gold this hydrant – the only one firefighters were able to get water from.

Grant program helps out rural fire departments

CDF is once again seeking out California rural fire departments, fire protection districts, and Native American communities in need of financial assistance for their programs. Through the Rural Community Fire Protection (RCFP) program, financial assistance is provided to organize, train, and equip rural fire departments to prevent, suppress, and control fires. Funding for the grants is provided by the U.S. Forest Service and administered by CDF.

Rural fire departments in communities with a population less than 10,000 are eligible for the grants, which range from \$500 to \$5,000. Awarded on the basis of need, priority is given to multi-community projects such as countywide planning, regional coordination groups, and for several communities planning protection for an entire rural

*by Liz Baidoo, student assistant,
Public Affairs and Public Education Offices*

area.

"All of the awards given in the next fiscal year will go to equipment," said Lloyd Limprecht, fire protection division chief. "The money will be used for computers, pagers, SCBA, wildland protective clothing, portable pumps, among other things."

Last year CDF received \$70,000 for RCFP and gave 29 awards. For the 2000/2001 fiscal year, CDF will receive \$118,000 and give 47 awards. The deadline for 2001/2002 is January 21, 2001. However, the large dollar amounts requested each year enable only a portion of the grants to be funded. Funding through the U.S. Forest Service has been as low as \$41,000 and as high as \$192,000.

RCFP funding is to be used for

fire needs only, not to be used for the construction of fire stations, purchasing fire engines, medical aid equipment, or contain-

ment of hazardous materials. Funds can be used for the conversion or rehabilitation of federal excess property or equipment.

Federal and state cooperation in wildland fire protection has been in effect for more than half a century. During the last 70 years, the level of fire protection has elevated, reducing the annual national burn average area from 40 million acres to 5 million. The RCFP program enhances the basic fire protection responsibility of private, state, and local owned lands.

"We'll be sending out notices to eligible units in late September for the 2001/2002 fiscal year urging them to apply," Limprecht said.

Fitness in Fresno

by Karen Guillemin, staff services analyst, Sierra-South HQ

Sierra-South Region Headquarters travels that extra mile to keep physically fit. If Region Chief Tim Turner tells an employee to go take a hike, they should not be offended. A demanding hiking trail at Millerton Lake has been chosen for a Sierra-South Headquarters workout. At any given time you can see management demonstrate their commitment to the department's physical fitness program on this trail.

The benefits of regular exercise are reduced stress, weight control, and improved health. Employees are better able to respond to the demands of their jobs if they are in top condition. Sierra Area Region Chief Robert Martines believes we should "lead by example." "If we ask our employees to stay physically fit, then managers should do the same." Chief

Martines organized the "lead by example hike-a-thon" held at Millerton Lake last summer. All surrounding units were invited to attend and the event was very successful. This trail is "not a walk in the park". It is a challenging, cardio-vascular work out. RSS has kept up the commitment by continuing to hike with the eagles on a regular basis, weather permitting.

Staff Chief Steve Sunderland credits the GIS section with excellent maps of the trail and the exact calculations of the hike. Chief Sunderland also said this hike supports the fire protection mission, and is a challenging and enjoyable way to stay in condition.

The difficulty of the Millerton hike is high, said Battalion Chief Bob Wirtz. Chief Wirtz believes regular



Beautiful views and great exercise.



exercise is a stress reducer, increases productivity, and is relaxing. If employees stay in shape it also reduces the number of accidents and injuries.

Everyone is welcome to join in, If you are interested in taking this hike with the eagles, please contact region Headquarters for directions.

SFM fire lab sparks curiosity about flammable materials

by Liz Baidoo, student assistant, Public Affairs and Public Education Offices

At the rear of the CDF Academy in Ione, Deputy State Fire Marshal Diane Arend is working on a highly flammable job. She's sitting in a small laboratory torching objects over open flame. Diane's job is not all flames and chemicals. She spends four out five days each week in her office at the OSFM facility in downtown Sacramento dealing with issues ranging from flame resistant materials to illegal fireworks. However, her solitary trip to the "lab" one day each week plays an important role in fire safety.

The OSFM examines fire-retardant decorative materials and fabrics with the goal of protecting the public from the fire hazards associated with their use in drinking and dining establishments, places of public assembly, licensed residential care facilities and schools.

The lab, previously located in south Sacramento at the old SFM office, relocated to the Academy in September 1999. The facility includes two components, a burn area and a chemical testing area.

Chemicals are tested to determine if they qualify as flame retardants. These chemicals, once stamped with the OSFM seal of approval, are

sold to consumers and retardant application businesses to be used on such materials as fabrics, decorative items, and Christmas trees. "The OSFM seal should be on the label of any flame retardant chemical sold here in California," said Diane.

"About 121 flame retardant chemicals on the market carry the OSFM seal; and on average, five to 10 new chemicals are approved each year."

When a chemical is first submitted to the lab for approval, it is sent with samples of the materials it is supposed to be used on. Chemicals are monitored with a pH meter to measure the acidity and alkalinity of the chemical. Chemicals that fall within specific standards will be registered as fire resistant. "The pH meter also helps us monitor flame resistant chemicals we have registered in the past to ensure that formulation changes have not occurred or that other modifications to the chemical have not taken place," Diane said.

In the burn area, materials treated with flame resistant chemicals are tested to determine their

degree of flame resistance. To be considered fire resistant, an item must meet one of these criteria: It must not continue to burn once touched by flame, it must extinguish itself, or it must not promote combustion.

While at the lab, we watched Diane test Christmas trees, canvas, and ornamental

garlands. All either did not burn or quickly extinguished themselves. Fabrics, like canvas, are tested in sheets. To receive the OSFM seal of approval they must meet the following criteria: When held to a flame the maximum length of "char" on the material cannot exceed 6", and the material cannot continue to burn for more than four seconds after the flame is removed. Char is the length of the material that burns when held to a flame.

It's important to note that fire resistant does not mean fire proof. Many items will ignite, but should quickly extinguish by themselves. Any items that continue to burn when held to a flame do not receive the OSFM seal of approval.

A list of approved flame retardant brands are available on the CDF web site and consumers are welcome to call the OSFM for more information.

"We also test man-made or synthetic textiles that do not require a topical finishing of flame retardant chemicals to achieve a level of flame resistance," said Diane. Some man-made fibers, such as nylon, acrylic, and polyester, are inherently flame resistant and may be combined with other natural fibers such as cotton or silk. Samples are sent to the OSFM for testing and verification of that resistance.

What would happen if the OSFM did not do this testing? "We would probably once again begin to see those catastrophic fires, with multiple loss of life, that resulted from the use of non-fire-retardant curtains, drapes, drops, and hangings," said Diane. "It was those types of incidents that resulted in the State Fire Marshal receiving regulatory authority in this area in the first place."



Deputy State Fire Marshal Diane Arend tests liquid retardants and chemically treated materials to determine whether or not they meet OSFM standards.



When Donna Greenberg searched for a group of people spread out in different areas of the central coast, who had regular days off during the week, and who were open to be of assistance to those in need — she ultimately arrived at one solution - firefighters.

As project coordinator for Care-A-Van for Kids, the first volunteer-based program of its kind in the nation, Donna said she got the idea from a firefighter in Alabama. "Before this program, I had never known a firefighter up close and personal," she said. "They really go out of their way to help people."

Care-A-Van for Kids uses volunteer firefighters to assist families in need who cannot get their children to the Lucille Packard Children's Hospital for treatment at Stanford University.

Care-A-Van was born from a discussion group at the hospital that discussed ways to make advanced health care more achievable for more families in outlying communities.

According to Donna, many of the children are cancer patients who need chemotherapy treatments or dialysis. Other children are recipients of heart, kidney, liver, lung, and bone marrow transplants. Some treatments require visits to the hospital two or three times a week.

In the early days of the program, eight volunteers were available to participate in the program. Unfortunately, most were also volunteer firefighters who had other job commitments, which limited their time. But Fire Apparatus Engineer Jeff Martin, Fire Captain Reno DiTullio, Jr., and Division Chief John Ferrera from the CDF Santa Clara Unit were able to compensate.

In the first year, the volunteers responded to over 300 requests for rides and traveled almost 30,000 miles.

Now the program consists of 59 volunteer firefighters from CDF,

Firefighters give a lift to those in need

*by Liz Baidoo, student assistant,
CDF Public Affairs and Public Education Offices*

county, and city fire stations in Santa Clara, Monterey, Santa Cruz, and San Benito counties.

Office Technician Dannie Snyder, of CDF's Santa Clara Unit, acts as the liaison between volunteers and families in need. "I'm usually contacted daily by social workers who have children in need of a ride," Dannie said. "Many firefighters give me their schedules in advance so I save time by not calling them when they are on duty."

A van is available to the volunteers, but most of them drive their own vehicles. "Those who want to use it have to come to our ranger unit to get it," Dannie said. "We would like to get another one, but somehow we would have to generate funding for that."

Dannie and Donna both said that fire season is the most difficult time for the program. "Sometimes I just can't find a driver," Dannie said. "It's hard on the families because Dad is often at work with the car, while Mom is at home without one."

"Does the family give up the money they need to live and eat, or risk the health of the child?" Donna said. "It's a really difficult situation."

"The firefighters hate to say no, because they really want to help these kids," Dannie said. "I try to drive when I can get out of the office. It helps me visualize what all the other volunteers experience."

Dannie said she tries to pair volunteers with kids who live relatively close to each other. "Some volunteers who commute from the Central Valley, often stick around so they can help out on off days."

Depending on the reason for the visit, some procedures at the hospital can be four hours long. Each volunteer is given a pager, so they can be notified when the hospital visit has

ended. "Many volunteers go shopping, read or take care of other business. One enjoys going to the recreation room at the hospital to visit with other sick children to utilize his free time," Dannie said.

Care-A-Van for Kids does not receive any funding for the program. All supplies including their van, car seats, and pagers have been donated by area businesses.

"We are always looking for more volunteers!" said Donna. "My goal is to have enough volunteers so one would just have to drive once a month."

Any CDF employees interested in volunteering their time to assist Care-A-Van for Kids should contact Donna Greenberg at (650) 324-1090.



From L to R are Gene Ciraulo of Santa Clara County Fire, and Office Technician Dannie Snyder and Fire Captain Reno DiTullio, Jr. of the CDF Santa Clara Unit.

Computer Virus Tip 2

If you have a child that uses a school computer and brings work home to use on your computer, you are at **EXTREME** risk. Most school computer labs are virtual petrie dishes for viruses. These are where virili are created by curious computer science students that just want to see if they can make one.

Every 15 minutes...

Surprise drill designed to shock students

by Mark Smith, The Sierra Star

An “emergency” call reporting “a car crash with injuries” on Highway 41 went out from emergency dispatchers on Monday morning—except that the crash was a mock up as part of a program to discourage high school students from drinking and driving.

The “Every 15 Minutes” program was presented Monday and Tuesday to students at Yosemite High School.

The program was a cooperative effort by the school, the state Department of Alcoholic Beverage Control, the Health Department, Sierra Ambulance Service, the *Madera County Fire Department, and several other emergency service agencies.

The “Every 15 Minutes” program was originally designed by the Chico Police Department in 1995.

The program was named “Every 15 Minutes” because in the early 1990s, someone in the U.S. died or was seriously injured in an alcohol related traffic collision every 15 minutes.

The program was planned as secretly as possible so that the majority of the students did not know about it in advance, making the impact even greater.

Prior to the program, 25 students were selected to participate as the “living dead” and as car crash “victims” in the program. Parents of these students provided permission for their children to participate.

On Monday morning, “grim reapers” went from classroom to

classroom at the school, and escorted the “living dead” students outside.

While a uniformed officer read obituaries to classmates, the “living dead” student planted a headstone outside in the grass.

The “living dead” students then proceeded to the high school field for the car crash event.

With the balance of the student body watching from the packed bleachers, large tarps were removed, exposing two wrecked cars on the field.

Inside the cars were the student “victims” of the collision, some “bleeding,” some “unconscious.”

The “living dead” students formed a semi circle around the crash scene, while grim reapers hovered from car to car.

A 911 call was heard over the loudspeaker advising of a wreck with injuries on Highway 41, north of Deadwood Summit, at the 40 mile per hour curve.

Within minutes, sirens were heard in the distance, as emergency crews raced to the crash scene.

Ambulances, fire trucks, and other emergency response vehicles quickly converged on the still smoldering wrecks.

The simulation was as good as it gets—from the realistic blood on the “victims” to the hurried, professional attitude showed by emergency personnel—it was like being on the scene of an actual car crash.

Medics from the Madera County Fire Department treated one student with minor injuries. One critically injured student was trapped inside a car. Firefighters used the “Jaws of Life” to free her from the vehicle, so she could be treated.

A third “victim” was declared dead at the scene, and was left in the car while medics helped the living “victims.”

A fourth student, the “drunk driver,” was given a field sobriety test, and was “arrested” for driving under the influence of alcohol.

Following the crash event, the program realistically dramatized the



Paid Call Firefighter Tom Willidams uses the “Jaws of Life” to cut open a car containing student victims of a simulated drunk driving accident.

aftermath of such a tragedy.

The “drunk driver” was booked into jail by officers, and had to call his parents and explain what happened.

The critically injured “victim” was transported to a trauma center, where doctors tried, unsuccessfully, to “save her life.” In the afternoon, the “living dead” students were taken by officers to a retreat at Camp Oakhurst.

No contact with family or friends was allowed for the “living dead” students, who participated in team building activities, and learned more about alcohol related car wrecks.

On Tuesday morning, the “living dead” students were driven back to school to participate in the closing assembly for the program.

Two coffins, decorated with flowers and pictures of the students who “died” as a result of the crash, were displayed on the floor of the gymnasium.

The parents of the crash “victims” were seated with the parents of the “living dead” students. The “living dead” students themselves were seated opposite their parents.

While the rest of the student body

See DRUNK, page 25

DRUNK: from page 24

watched from the bleachers, a video of the previous day's events was shown.

The video included detailed coverage of the crash event itself, and also showed events that had taken place away from the school campus, such as booking the drunken driver into jail.

Student LeAnn Kahler read an emotional poem to the audience—and struggled to keep her composure throughout—about the tragic consequences of drinking and driving.

Following the assembly, a reception for the participating students was held in the school library.

While some students reported they found the program “depressing”, others said they found the program to be “very cool.”

“I liked the program a lot,” said Christina Smith, 15, a freshman at the school. “It was very emotional, and I think it had a big effect on a lot of teenagers.”

“I think I would be much less likely to let a friend drink and drive,” she continued. “I think now I would try to take the car keys away.”

“We got a very strong, emotional response from this program,” said Principal Steve Raupp. “I believe we achieved our intent and got this very important message out to the students.”

“Our hope is that our students are now better prepared to make the right decisions about drinking and driving.”

Principal Raupp also expressed his appreciation to all the agencies and individuals who participated and worked on the program.

“We couldn't have done this program without strong support from the community,” said Mr. Raupp.

****CDF operates the Madera County Fire Department via contract with Madera County. These types of local government contracts are known as Schedule A contracts.***

CDF presents \$10,000 arson reward

On Friday, June 23, 2000, Tulare Unit Chief Ed Wristen presented an arson reward check in the amount of \$10,000 to Judy Will, a resident of the foothill community of Three Rivers.

On Sunday evening, July 11, 1999, a wildland fire occurred on North Fork Drive in Three Rivers. The cause of the fire was arson, and it was set in a hazardous fire area with the potential to become a major conflagration. While driving her car along North Fork Drive, Judy observed a juvenile intentionally set the fire. The juvenile, along with two friends, then drove away. Judy followed the vehicle long enough to obtain the license number and a

description. She then stopped at a residence and called 9-1-1, reporting the fire and giving a description of the suspects' vehicle. A short time later, CDF investigators located the vehicle and took the three juvenile suspects into custody. The information provided by Judy led to the apprehension and successful prosecution of the male juvenile from Tulare for the crime of arson to wildland vegetation.

This fire was one of 523 arson caused fires set in the unincorporated areas of Tulare County in 1999 causing \$3,044,600 in damages. There is no question that, without the assistance of Judy, this fire would have been one of the many unsolved fires in Tulare County.

Showing its appreciation and in accordance with CDF's authority under Public Resources Code 4417 and the desire to prosecute violators of the arson laws of the State of California, CDF authorized this \$10,000 reward to Judy Will.

Trees for Oakland

Trees for the Millennium, Governor Gray Davis' program to plant and maintain trees in California cities, benefited the city of Oakland on July 20. A check for \$20,000 was presented to the Oakland Releaf program for the planting and maintenance of 400 trees in the city.

Several trees were planted during the ceremony, which took place on Peralta Street near where the Cypress Freeway collapsed during the 1991 Loma Prieta Earthquake. Since that collapse, heavy trucks and other commercial vehicles have increased noise, congestion and air pollution along Peralta Street.

“The planting that we are starting today is part of a much larger effort that will be going on around the state in the next several years,” said CDF Director Andrea Tuttle. “This is an exciting time for those of us who love city trees and are dedicated to improving the quality of life in



CDF Director Andrea Tuttle presents a \$20,000 check for planting trees in the city of Oakland. From L to R are: Brian Weinberger from Senator Don Perata's office, CDF Director Tuttle, City Councilmember Nancy Nadel, and Kemba Shakur, executive director, Oakland Releaf.

California.”

Thousands of tree will be planted in 70 communities with the \$2 million that was provided by the Trees for the Millennium program. The Parks Bond, Proposition 12, passed in the last election, is providing an additional \$10 million for tree planting over the next seven years.

VIPs celebrate 20 years

Fire prevention specialists from throughout the state converged on Sacramento during the month of March to celebrate the 20th anniversary of the CDF Volunteer In Prevention (VIP) Program.

The week-long conference included presentations by each fire prevention specialist (FPS) on the current programs in their respective units, special presentations, and awards dinner.

FPSs Kim Lanier from Riverside, Cheryl Goetz from San Benito-Monterey, and Janet Marshall from Butte, presented new and creative ideas they had learned during a recent workshop and ended with a rousing characterization of the Village Peoples YMCA adapted to Stop, Drop, and Roll complete with costumes and audience participation in the song. Although the group appeared a little nervous, (with only 45 minutes to choreograph and practice), their stage fright ended when they saw Cascade Area Chief Jeff Jones' enthusiastic participation.

A special presentation by

FIREPALS from Eureka also provided some new ideas for CDF folks. FIREPALS (FIRE Prevention And Life Safety) is a group of past and present Eureka firefighters and local community members who joined efforts to find a way to reach more children as well as targeting the older hard to reach children with their fire prevention messages. The group reaches the children through audience participation and music. Their program is very successful, and immediate results can be seen not only by the looks on the children's faces but by their willingness to participate in the program.

An evening dinner/awards program honored the founders of the VIP program, each unit's VIPs of the year and each VIP with 20 years of service. CDF Director Andrea Tuttle presented the awards and in turn the fire prevention specialists presented Director Tuttle with a handmade Smokey Bear quilt. The quilt's squares were made by each specialist and assembled by VIP's Jack and Marie from Madera-



This patchwork Smokey quilt was made by hand by two CDF VIPs and presented to Director Tuttle during the VIP Conference. The quilt is displayed in the Director's Office in Sacramento.

Mariposa-Merced Unit. Assistant Chief Pete Marquez was presented with two plaques on behalf of CDF's prevention specialists for his vision and leadership in the program. Pete retired in July. A raffle held during the evening's festivities raised \$4,180 that was presented to the Firefighters Pacific Burn Institute.

This annual sharing of information and recognition of a lot of hard work by CDF's fire prevention specialists plays an important role in making CDF's fire prevention education programs successful statewide.

It brings up images of different things to different people, but if you have ever been involved in the CDF Volunteer in Prevention program, it's a big deal, and every VIP knows what it means.

Bag stuffing is the act of filling large plastic bags with fire prevention materials to be handed out to the public and, specifically, children. It's a job that is usually accomplished several times a year by VIPs depending on the needs of a unit.

Recently, as VIP coordinator and fire prevention program person for the Lassen-Modoc Unit, I was asked to visit Lassen Manor, a senior citizen apartment complex in Susanville, and provide a fire safety

It's called bag stuffing!

***Ron Stephens,
fire prevention specialist II,
Lassen-Modoc Unit***

program for its residents. At the end of the program, as so many of us do, I asked for volunteers to join our VIP program -boy did I get a response!

I suspect Norma Brinkley, who resides at Lassen Manor and had recently been named 1999 VIP of the Year for the unit, had been explaining our VIP program to several of her friends during their weekly Bingo game.

These seniors decided that CDF and Smokey Bear needed help in preparing for upcoming events in the community.

It became immediately clear to me that these ladies wanted to hurt me, a perfectly good (retired annuitant) in a big way!

As you have probably already surmised, I had planned on a number of bags much less than they. So, I beat a path between Susanville Manor and LMU Headquarters most of the day hauling them supplies!

With Norma as their ringleader, they proceeded to stuff hundreds of bags.

Bag stuffing will never mean the same to me after what these sweet older ladies put me through!

This experience is just one example of what volunteerism and the VIP program means to small communities throughout California. I am planning to ask them to help us again, but I need to rest first!

Pulling together for USFS air crash victims

On Monday May 15, 2000, US Forest Service employee Sam Tobias from Ruidoso, New Mexico lifted off from Alamogordo Air Attack Base in Cessna 337 with contract pilot Leo Kopomen of Courtney Aviation. Shortly after take off, the plane crashed into the rugged wilderness East of Alamogordo, New Mexico during a fire detection mission.

The tragedy impacted a great number of firefighting personnel as Sam Tobias was a friend as well as

fellow firefighter. Sam Tobias had been a community leader in the creation of recreation facilities for the Lincoln National Forest. Firefighters expressed dismay at the loss of both.

Although there is little one can do at such a time of loss, firefighters felt the need to express their sorrow to family and friends. Members of the Fire Information Section on the Scott Able fire came up with the idea of establishing a memorial fund for

both families. CDF Battalion Chiefs Jim Wattenburger from the Mendocino Unit and Deanna Baxman from the Sonoma-Lake-Napa Unit coordinated the fund raising drive.

Battalion Chief Jim Wattenbureger presented the funds raised to Mike Kremke, District Fire Management Officer of the Sacramento Ranger District in the Lincoln National Forest. Mike's responsibility was to ensure that the \$1,554 collected from firefighters assigned to the Scott Able fire was equally distributed to both families.

In Memory of...

by Morna Morrison, CDF receptionist, Sacramento HQ.

Fire Captain Brian Kornegay of the Mendocino Unit has dedicated hours of his time to help family and friends grieve for their loved ones via the Internet. Brian is the creator of www.virtual-condolences.com, a web site designed in remembrance of his daughter, Heather Kornegay, who passed away last spring from an asthma attack.

The idea came to him in the middle of night shortly after Heather's death and the same day the Columbine High School incident occurred. Brian wanted a place where the families and friends of the Columbine victims could come together online to share their grief. Because of his own daughter's death, Kornegay felt he had something to share with other families who had experienced the same loss. That outlet became www.virtual-condolences.com. He visited his local

Internet service provider, Pacific Internet, with his idea. Pacific Internet recognized the importance of Brian's idea and now sponsors the site.

The web site is an entirely non-profit project that Brian works on in his spare time at home. It is a place where anyone can post condolences and remembrances. Brian was so inspired by the response to his daughter's memorial, and then to the Columbine memorial, that he decided to expand the web site to firefighters and their families. Later, the sudden death of a firefighter's son triggered Brian's desire to branch out and touch all the lives that he could. He knows from experience how dedicated a firefighter is to his job and believes that all firefighters should be honored when they die, whether in the line of duty or not. Now on his site,

you will find virtual condolences for up to 12 recent deaths at a time; each virtual condolence has a special message from Brian and blessings from all over the world.

Brian feels that www.virtual-condolences.com reminds others grieving a recent death that they are never alone—that other people around the world share their grief. He likens the web site to a roadside memorial where perfect strangers can unite for the sole purpose of coming to terms with a loss. He himself is trying to learn from his daughter's death by helping others and wishes he had the same thing available to him when he was going through his own grieving process.

"If it helps even a little, then it's not a job; it's more a labor of love," Brian says.

Computer Virus Tip 3

The spate of "ILOVEYOU" viruses in May shows that we cannot even trust the message if it comes from the person in the next cubicle. Use common sense, if you don't recognize the recipient and don't recognize the icon for the attachment.....get verbal confirmation from the person who sent the file before you open it.

Bob Kerstiens

Taken from an article that appeared in the Red Bluff Daily News on February 1, 2000.

During 53 years of working with California's public and private lands, Red Bluff's Bob Kerstiens climbed from wildland firefighter to chairman of the California Board of Forestry and Fire Protection.

Now, he has stepped down from the powerful post on the board that is responsible for protecting the forest resources of all the wildland areas of California not under federal jurisdiction, including major timber stands, woodlands, and brush and range watersheds in both private and state ownership.

Kerstiens notified Governor Gray Davis that he would not seek reappointment to the board on which he has served three four-year terms.

"Other pressing commitments make it impossible for me to continue," Kerstiens wrote in the letter.

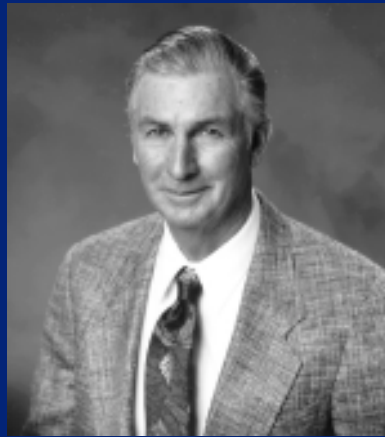
One of those commitments will allow him to keep his hand in resource conservation - he's a member of the planning committee for the Nature Conservancy's 43,000-acre Dye Creek Preserve east of Red Bluff.

Kerstiens was appointed by former Governor George Deukmejian to represent the public interest on the board. He was reappointed by former Governor Pete Wilson to represent the range livestock industry.

Wilson also appointed Kerstiens chairman of the board in 1993. He stepped down from the office after the board's March meeting.

"Make no mistake, his absence from the board will be felt for years to come," said state Senator Maurice Johannessen, R-Redding.

"Bob didn't merely stand on the sidelines and watch things happen," Johannessen said. "He was always on the field of action making a difference. He's a leader and knows how to get things done. His service on the board was exemplary." California Cattlemen's Association president Jerry Hemsted remembers Kerstiens as a dependable man who was easy to work with. Kerstiens



was a former Tehama County Cattlemen vice-president under Hemsted.

"He was the first chairman of the board who was successful in getting environmentalists and member of the timber industry on the same

page," said Hemsted. "The one thing about Bob is that no matter what, if you give him a task, he'll finish it."

Kerstiens described his track record on the board as one of a person with a "balanced agenda - sensitive to the environmental world, yet maintaining economic needs where possible."

The rewards of serving as the board's chair for the past six years came in "working with the top-quality board members and an excellent staff," Kerstiens said.

The board oversees the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection, which Kerstiens described as a "very professional organization with excellent leaders and dedicated employees."

Indeed, it is an organization that Kerstiens joined in 1947, shortly after returning to his Red Bluff home after World War II combat duty in Europe.

By the time he retired from the agency in 1987, he had risen through the ranks to become ranger-in-charge of CDF's Tehama-Glenn Ranger Unit.

In addition to his work with the Nature Conservancy, Kerstiens is serving his seventh term on the Tehama District Fair Board of Directors and is a director and vice chair of the board of Mid-Valley Bank.

He and his wife, Gusti, operate a family farm and cattle ranching operation in the Antelope Valley in the eastern outskirts of Red Bluff.

Guiding our natural resource departments

Mary Nichols

Governor Gray Davis named Mary D. Nichols California's eighth Secretary for Resources on December 16, 1998. As the Resources Secretary, she oversees 21 state departments, boards, commissions, and conservancies, including the Departments of Conservation, Fish and Game, Forestry and Fire Protection, Parks and Recreation, Water Resources, and the California Coastal

Commission. The Secretary coordinates the Agency's and departments' policies, serves as the Governor's representative on the Agency's boards and commissions, and administers the California Environmental Quality Act.

Before her appointment, Nichols served as the Executive Director of Environment Now, a private foundation dedicated to the protection of the California environment. In 1993, she was nominated by President Clinton

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and confirmed by the US Senate to be United States Environmental Protection Agency's Assistant Administrator for Air and Radiation. Secretary Nichols served as a senior staff attorney and director of the Los Angeles office of the Natural Resources Defense Council from 1989 to 1993.

She was appointed by Governor Edmund G. Brown, Jr. to the attorney seat on the California Air Resources Board in 1975, and was named chair in 1978.

She also served as Secretary for Environmental Affairs, the cabinet-level agency responsible for air, water, and solid waste management that later became California Environmental Protection Agency.

Secretary Nichols was one of California's first environmental lawyers, initiating some of the first test cases under the Federal Clean Air Act and California air quality laws while practicing as a staff attorney for the Center for Law in the Public Interest.

She has been an independent consultant, providing environmental legal services to government agencies and private clients. She also practiced environmental litigation and administrative law with a leading California law firm. While in private practice in Los Angeles, she also served as a Commissioner of Parks and on the City Parks Commission in the administration of Mayor Tom Bradley.

She has a degree in Russian Literature from Cornell University, and Juris Doctorate from Yale Law School.

The Communique'

The Communique' will be published quarterly. Please use the following deadlines for submitting materials:

Quarterly Schedule

Summer (June/July/August)

Fall (September/October/November)

Winter (December/January/February)

Spring(March/April/May)

Deadline For Material

August 7, 2000

November 6, 2000

February 5, 2001

May 7, 2001

Continue to submit Communique' articles and photos to the CDF Public Affairs Office, ATTN: COMMUNIQUE', P.O. Box 944246, Sacramento, CA 94244-2460, or e-mail to Lisa Boyd – Lisa_Boyd@fire.ca.gov. For more information call Lisa or Alisha Herring at (916) 653-5123.

Use of Internet/Intranet

All future issues of the Communique' will be placed on the CDF web site and on the CDF Intranet. This allows us to use color photos, be more creative graphically, and reach a worldwide audience. It is not feasible, however, at this time to rely solely on the Internet to deliver the Communique'. It took up to 40 minutes for CDF fire stations, camps, air attack, and helitack bases, to download the last issue of the Communique' off the web – they have to pay for that time. And, most busy CDF personnel do not have the time to sit and read an entire issue during their work shift. However, the reaction to seeing the last issue of the Communique' on the Internet was incredibly positive. We will continue to print and mail copies to all CDF units, retirees, and our general mailing list.

In order to provide more space in the quarterly Communique' for features, the two sections of the newsletter listed below will be placed on the CDF web site and CDF Intranet beginning June 2000.

Personnel Transactions

Personnel Transactions will be placed on the Internet and linked on the Intranet on a bi-monthly basis. The Public Affairs Office Secretary, Alisha Herring, will continue to gather and prepare the transactions for this Communique' section - Alisha_Herring@fire.ca.gov.

Kudos

Kudos will be placed on the Internet and linked on the Intranet monthly. Continue to submit Kudos to the Public Affairs Office, ATTN: Communique'.

Computer Virus Tip 4

Because of the speed with which they can be spread worldwide, the subject line of an infected file will attempt to have the broadest possible appeal in order to get the largest number of people to open it. Messages that start with "I found your wallet" or "Low cost childcare" are guaranteed a broad audience. Be alert!

CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF FORESTRY AND FIRE PROTECTION
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5th Annual CDF Fire Prevention Meeting

October 19, 2000,
Gold Coast Hotel and Casino
Las Vegas

Join other retired CDF Fire Prevention Officers, (current CDFers welcome as well), at this annual gathering. Catch up with old friends, and make some new ones. Dolores Chacon, from the CDF South Area Office, will discuss retired annuitants and EEOC investigation updates during inner that evening.

Contact the Gold Coast Hotel at (888) 402-6278 by September 15 and mention the Department of Forestry for room reservations.

Make your \$25 checks for dinner payable to Keith Metcalfe and send to 5571 Camino Real, Riverside, CA 92509 or call Keith for more information (909) 685-3357.

COMMUNIQUE'

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Mary D. Nichols

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The Communique' is published by the CDF Public Affairs Office, (916) 653-5123. Articles and photos from the field and retired CDFers are always welcome.

www.fire.ca.gov

Fire Safe,
California!



Be sure to visit
Camp Smokey
at the

California State Fair

August 18-September 4, 2000

